

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01222 201804Z

70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-02

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R 201400Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5707

UNCLAS LA PAZ 1222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BL

SUBJ: COMIBOL FINDS NEW TIN VEINS

1. COMIBOL'S GENERAL MANAGER ON FEBRUARY 19 ANNOUNCED TO PRESS COMPLETION OF CROSS-CUT MEASURING 3 X 3 METERS AND 2.1 KILOMETERS LONG AT CARACOLE MINE (ALTITUDE 4,749 METERS) IN TRES CRUCES MOUNTAIN RANGE ABOUT 226 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF LA PAZ. CROSS-CUT OR TUNNEL INITIALLY STARTED IN 1972 AND CUT 16 TIN VEINS. ALSO CONNECTED TWO SECTIONS OF MINE THROUGH UNEXPLORED VIRGIN GROUND. PROJECT COST REPORTEDLY US\$ 790,000 AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL INCREASE CARACOLE MINE RESERVES SIGNIFICANTLY.

2. IN NEXT SIX MONTHS COMIBOL HOPES TO DEVELOP SOME OF NEW VEINS AND AT SAME TIME FINISH A TIN PRE-CONCENTRATION PLANT WITH INPUT CAPACITY OF 400 TONS PER DAY. CARACOLE REPORTEDLY WILL THEN INITIALLY PRODUCE PER MONTH 30 TONS OF CONTAINED TIN MORE THAN PRODUCED PREVIOUSLY.

COMMENT: IN 1973 CARACOLE PRODUCED 1,233 METRIC TONS OF CONTAINED TIN IN CONCENTRATE FORM. DESPITE RELATIVELY SMALL ANNUAL PRODUCTION, CARACOLE HAS POTENTIAL OF BECOMING LARGE SOURCE OF COMIBOL PRODUCTION IN FEW YEARS.

STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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